26 July 1845

CATALOGUE

OF A

VALUABLE COLLECTION

OF

MEXICAN ANTIQUITIES,

FROM THE ANCIENT KINGDOMS

OF

ANAHUAC AND GUASTECA,

COLLECTED UNDER THE

PERSONAL SUPERINTENDENCE AND THE PROPERTY

OF

CHARLES B. YOUNG, ESQ.

OF THE CITY OF MEXICO.

Some of these objects are considered to be of a very early period, and others as late as the Invasion of the Spaniards.

TO WHICH IS ADDED,

A SMALL COLLECTION OF EGYPTIAN AND MISCELLANEOUS ANTIQUITIES.

1845 July 26 LoSoY

L.17867

WHICH WILL BE SOLD BY AUCTION,

BY

S. LEIGH SOTHEBY & CO.

AUCTIONEERS OF LITERARY PROPERTY AND WORKS ILLUSTRATIVE OF THE FINE ARTS

AT THEIR HOUSE, 3, WELLINGTON STREET, STRAND,

On SATURDAY, 26th of JULY, 1845, at ONE o'Clock precisely.

To be Viewed Two Days prior to the Sale, and Catalogues had.

Printed by J. DAVY & SONS, Queen Street, King Street, Long Acre.

CONDITIONS OF SALE.

I. The highest bidder to be the buyer; and if any dispute arise between two or more bidders; the lot so disputed shall be immediately put up again.

II. No person to advance less than 1s.; above Five Pounds 2s. 6d.; and so on in proportion.

III. The Purchasers to give in their Names and Places of Abode, and to pay down 5s. in the Pound, if required, in part of payment of the Purchase-money; in default of which, the Lot or Lots purchased to be immediately put up again and re-sold.

IV.—The Sale of any lot is not to be set aside on account of any error in the enumeration of the numbers stated, or errors of description.

V. The Lots to be taken away at the Buyer's Expence, immediately after the Conclusion of the Sale; in default of which, S. Leigh Sotheby & Co. will not hold themselves responsible if lost, stolen damaged or otherwise destroyed, but they will be left at the sole risk of the Purchaser. If at the expiration of Two DAYS after the conclusion of the Sale, the Lots are not cleared or paid for, they will then be catalogued for immediate sale, and the expence, the same as if re-sold, will be added to the amount at which they were bought. S. Leigh Sotheby & Co. will have the option of re-selling the Lots uncleared either by public or private sale, without any notice being given to the defaulter.

VI. Upon failure of complying with the above conditions, the money required or deposited in part of payment shall be forfeited; and *if any loss is sustained in the re-selling of such lots as are not cleared or paid for, all charges on such re-sale shall be made good by the defaulter at this sale.*

Gentlemen who cannot attend the Sale, may have their Commissions faithfully executed by their humble Servants,

S. LEIGH SOTHEBY & JOHN WILKINSON,
Wellington Street, Strand.

PREFACE.

In offering for public sale the accompanying collection of Antiquities from the buried and mysterious cities of the ancient kingdom of Mexico, Messrs. Sotheby and Co. think they cannot do better than subjoin, as an explanatory preface to the Catalogue, a few observations written on the subject by the Gentleman who collected them. In a letter, he states, "The Mexican Antiquities I have already sent you, (to lot 32) are from places which formed part of the ancient kingdom of Anahuac, now the department of Mexico; most of them were collected at Tezcoco; the stone figures were detached from and found among the ruins; the clay figures in subterraneous chambers by the side of human remains. From my late travels in Yucatan, I am enabled, from what I have seen, and from traditions obtained from the Indians, to affirm that the former were architectural ornaments, for I have met with similar ones standing or sitting on projections among the ruins of Uxmal. The clay figures have doubtless served for penates, and were afterwards buried with their owners: this is sufficiently proved by the opening of many tumuli, in which were found human remains, clay figures, dishes, pots, jars, and beads. This perfectly agrees with the accounts of funerals given by the early historians. You must remember we have no history of this country by the Indians themselves, for, at the conquest, the priests in their zeal not only destroyed all the idols, altars, &c. they could find, but even the records of the country which they found written on deer-skins, prepared something like our parchment."

In a second letter, he writes—"The objects I now send you (the second lot) are from another ancient kingdom of this country, called

Guasteca, extending about half way from the coast to Mexico. The greater part of these figures were found together at little depth in an alluvial soil, from which it may be reasonably inferred, that, after they had been collected together and ordered to be destroyed by the priests, to avoid the trouble of breaking them, they were thrown into the water; for there is little doubt the spot was once submerged, though now quite dry, and affording material for bricks, which was the cause of their discovery. Unfortunately, many of the figures, and vases, and dishes, were too mutilated to be worth removal. I consider it extremely fortunate to have met with this lot from a different kingdom, inasmuch as it will afford an opportunity of judging from their productions, whether the inhabitants of both countries were the same or distinct people. One thing I can declare, that the type of these figures, which in all probability were designed to represent human persons, is in perfect keeping with the physiognomy of the Indians from the North of the Republic."

No similar collection has ever been offered for sale in this country; and Messrs. SOTHEBY and Co. have great pleasure in recommending it to their antiquarian friends as highly curious and interesting, assuring them at the same time, that, from the known character and reputation of the Gentleman who collected it, the most perfect reliance may be placed on the description.

CATALOGUE.

MEXICAN ANTIQUITIES,

FROM THE ANCIENT CITY OF TEZCOCO, IN THE KINGDOM OF ANAHUAC.

LOT

1 A Stone Idol, seated, with singular ornament round the head and waist . . 17 *inches high.* 1

2 Two Stone Idols, seated, one with conical cap, *very rude, but apparently very early* . 2

3 A figure of a Priest, with hands joined . 1

4 A large Figure, in porphyry, *much mutilated;* a bust of a Warrior; and the head of a Lion . 3

5 A female Figure, kneeling; on the back is a rude representation of another . 11 *inches high.* 1

6 A small Head, in porphyry, *well preserved* . 1

7 A Stone Idol, seated . . 1

8 Three small Figures, in porphyry . 3

9 A figure, in terra-cotta, of a Priest, in a richly ornamented dress, with a mitre on his head, *very fine* 10 *inches high.* 1

*** The mitre, breastplate, and sacerdotal habit, will remind the biblical scholar of the vestments of the Jewish High Priest.

10 A grotesque Figure, in terra-cotta, *very curious* . 1

11 A grotesque Figure, in a singular attitude, with a species of mask at the back . . . 1

12 A skeleton-like Figure extended along the back of, and embracing, a turtle, *very fine* . . 1

*** This is one of the most remarkable and curious objects in the collection.

13 A curious seated figure of a Witch (Duende) holding a snake by the head . . 1

14 An Idol, with singular head-dress, *fine* 9 *inches high.* 1

15 Two singular Idols, in terra-cotta; *one fine, the other mutilated* 2

16 An Idol, seated in a kind of chair, *very curious* . 1

17 A Terra-cotta Crocodile, on the back of which is seated a royal personage, his head being surmounted with the Mexican diadem, *slightly mutilated, but very fine* . 1

*** The exquisite modelling of this group, and the touching expression of melancholy in the countenance of the Chief, is worthy of any age or country.

As it was the custom of the Mexicans to record historical events by pictures and sculpture, it is not improbable that the fettered and unhappy-looking figure here represented is the Emperor Montezuma in captivity, and the crocodile or alligator, by whom he is carried off, symbolizes the cruel Spaniards. Such a mode of recording the captivity of their beloved Prince, might be supported by many plausible reasons.

18 Two curious Figures, in terra-cotta . 2

19 An Idol, in terra-cotta, *very fine;* and part of another, *mutilated* . . 2

20 A Fragment, in terra-cotta, much ornamented; *flat* 1

21 A small Object, in terra-cotta, about an inch square, highly ornamented; and a piece of Slate, engraved with the figure of a Goddess . . 2

22 Three small Objects, in stone; two of a semi-globular form, apparently intended for some game! the third shaped like a large bead . . . 3

23 Three small Heads, in stone; and a terra-cotta Ball, hollow, pierced with several holes, probably a child's toy 4

24 A curious Terra-cotta Patera, supported on three legs, representing human Heads reversed, *very rare* . 1

25 A Vase or Pitcher, in red terra-cotta, ornamented round the centre with figures of deities in relief, with twisted handle, *very curious and fine* . 10 *inches high.* 1

26 A Vase or Pitcher, slightly differing in shape, but similarly ornamented, *very fine* . 9 *inches high.* 1

27 A smaller Vase or Pitcher, similar in ornament, 5 *inches high.* 1

28 A similar Vase or Pitcher, similar in ornament, ornamented handle . . 6 *inches high.* 1

29 As before, similar in ornament, plain handle 4 *inches high.* 1

30 A large and handsome Vase, of terra-cotta, the body representing two human heads, the character of which is distinctly

North American. These heads are separated by two smaller ones, and the neck of the vase is encircled by a snake; the handle is of the twisted or spiral form; *very rare and remarkable specimen* . 16 *inches high.* 1

31 Eleven Beads; an ornamented Fragment; and four small Objects . . . 16

32 A quantity of Obsidian or Volcanic Glass

MEXICAN ANTIQUITIES,

FROM THE ANCIENT CITY OF GUASTECA.

33 This curious and interesting Group represents two Warriors making a vow, probably of war, from the trophies in the back-ground; the altar is before them; the figures bear the type of the Northern Indians . *height* 11 *inches.* 1

34 A Figure, which, from its characteristic Northern type, is probably a representation of some Chief of that Tribe . 1

35 Another, which from the singular and expressive names given by Indians to their warriors, might be called Pelican, who, with his wife, represented at the back of the figure, probably perished in some hostile surprise. If the characters to be seen on it could be deciphered, their history might soon be known 1

36 This Figure seems to represent a Witch (Duende); a general belief in their existence prevailed, and this one may have been supposed to appear under the form of the animal at her feet 1

37 A figure of a sleeping or dead Infant; *full of soft expression* 1

38 A curious Pot; *the handle unfortunately broken* . 1

39 A very singular Cup; perfect in its form, though mutilated; such as are found in the chambers of the dead 1

40 The Lid of a Cup. There is a tradition about a bearded man, such is seen on the top, called Zueralcoutl . 1

41 Probably a sacerdotal Figure from the attire . 1

42 This appears to represent the Indiatriste, of which there is a general tradition . . 1

43 An Armadillo, *very curious* . . 1

44 A Frog, or Toad, *very expressive* . 1

45 A female Idol. There is no doubt the Indians had goddesses of great consideration; they may yet be seen among the ruins of Uxmal and Chichen . *height* 9 *inches.* 1

46 Six Figures; all probably penates, found in the tombs and with the remains of their former owners . 6
47 Most probably a Duende, or Witch . . . 1
48 A singular Figure, with head ornament peculiar to Peru 1
49 An Idol, invoked against toads. This kind of worship for the destruction of noxious animals still exists . 1
50 A grotesque Figure, with Indian characters on its breast 1
51 A Witch, or Duende, invoked for the protection of children 1
52 Perhaps the God of Harvests, from the ornaments of ears of corn . . 10 *inches high.* 1
53 Two small Figures . . 2
54 A Head . . . 1
55 A Witch, or Duende . . . 1
56 Nine small Penates . . . 9
57 Probably a Witch or Wizard . 1
58 A coarse representation of the Virgin and Infant. The Indians are known to have believed in a Mediatrix . 1
59 A Fragment . . . 1
60 Twenty-seven small Figures, some for suspension, others for insertion in a soft substance to form a relievo 27
61 Three curious ornaments, with shafts, for insertion into a wall, one has two singular figures on it, the others have Indian characters . . . 3
62 A Head of an Arrow, formed of obsidian . 1
63 A Ball from the interior of a Figure; and a beautiful and highly ornamented red clay Figure, probably representing some celebrated Chief . 9 *inches high.* 2

ANOTHER PROPERTY.

EGYPTIAN ANTIQUITIES. from Salt's Collection

64 Necklaces, Beads, Rings, &c. in porcelain, taken from mummies
65 Combs, Scarabæi, Specimens of Human Hair, Sandals, Baskets, &c.
66 Seven Idols, in stone, with hieroglyphics . 7
67 Eight Idols, in wood, of curious form . 8
68 A Jackal, Hawk, &c. in wood . , 3
69 An upright Figure of a Mummy, in wood, on pedestal, painted, with hieroglyphics . 16 *inches high.* 1
70 Another, covered with hieroglyphics, *a fine large specimen, in beautiful preservation* . . 1
71 Another, smaller, without the pedestal . 1
72 A painted Wooden Tablet, with figures and hieroglyphics 1
73 Three well-sculptured Heads, being covers of canopic vases 3
74 Three others, an Alabaster Vase, two Vases in wood, &c. 8
75 A large quantity of Mummy Cloth
76 A MUMMY, UNROLLED, IN THE ORIGINAL WOODEN SARCOPHAGUS, painted with figures and hieroglyphics, *in good preservation* . . . 1
77 Portions of Necklaces, Beads, and other small objects
78 Small figures of Deities, Crocodiles, &c. . 7
79 The Triad, or Egyptian Trinity; and a String of Beads, with a nilometer attached . . 2
80 Scarabæi, in lapis-lazuli, jasper, porcelain, &c., some engraved, one with a cartouche . . 7
81 An Amulet, engraved with figures; two Minute Vases; and a Scarabæus; *all in cornelian.—From Mr. Salt's Collection* . . . 4
82 The Cat-headed Deity, exquisitely modelled, with hieroglyphics down the back.—*From the Salt Collection, sold in* 1835 1
83 Strings of bugle-shaped Beads; a small Nilometer; and part of a Lachrymatory, in glass . . 4
84 A Scarabæus, *in green serpentine stone,* beautifully formed, but without hieroglyphics . 2 *inches long.* 1
85 Another, covered with hieroglyphics.—*From Mr. Burton's Collection, sold in* 1836 . 1½ *inch long.* 1

86 A Nilometer, of unusually large size, *very fine.—From Thebes, where it was found in the hand of a mummy* 4 *inches long.* 1

87 A semicircular Object, with human head, supposed to represent Rhea, *very curious and rare* . 1

*** This singular object was found on the breast of a mummy.

88 An Idol, in stone, painted, *very fine and rare* . 1

89 Three small Idols, in green porcelain; and a Fragment of a Funeral Tablet . . 4

90 An exquisite little Bronze, representing two Lizards, intertwined, and biting each other.—*Given by Belzoni to the late Proprietor* . . . 1

MISCELLANEOUS ANTIQUITIES.

91 A Head of Jupiter, in terra-cotta, *very fine Etruscan work.—Formerly in the Collection of Mr. Boddington* 1

*** This head shows the remains of gilding.

92 A grotesque figure of Silenus, in terra-cotta, *finely preserved.—Also from Mr. Boddington's Etruscan Collection* 1

93 A *square* Roman Glass Bottle; found in excavating for the City Grammar School, in Honey Lane Market, in 1835 4 *inches high.* 1

94 A *round* Roman Glass Bottle; found in excavating for warehouses on the north side of St. Saviour's Church, in 1837 1

95 A Chasing in Bronze, *most elaborately finished;* Ovals in Copper, of the Twelve Cæsars, *electrotypes* . 13

96 Five Roman Silver Coins, and three Copper Medals, *the latter very fine proofs* . . 8

THE END.

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